

NN/LM NER Regional Advisory Committee

Outreach Committee Annual Report 2001-2002

Submitted by Cora Ho, Chair

Committee Charges:

The Committee will make recommendations for potential outreach projects to be conducted by Outreach Libraries and others in the region. They will exchange ideas about their previous experiences with the various outreach projects. They will share training materials, successes and failures and communicate them to the network office. The committee will investigate ways to document the impact of the project on the region and recommend appropriate methods to the NER for future projects. They will review all subcontracts for outreach and exhibit awards and recommend acceptance, modification, or rejection of those subcontracts. Membership will consist of 3 liaisons from the Outreach Libraries and at least one representative from an affiliate public library or organization with similar goals to those of NER. Memberships will serve staggered two or three year terms.

Members: Cora Ho, Tufts University, Chair
Anne Conner, Northern New Hampshire Area Health Education Center (AHEC)
Kenny Marone, Yale University
Tovah Reis, Brown University
Javier Crespo, RML Coordinator

Tasks areas of assistance to the RML office:

Javier Crespo pulled together the following initiatives from discussions and suggestions from RAC and Resources Library Directors meetings. The committee plans to meet at the NAHSL annual meeting to evaluate and prioritize them.

- Identify underserved areas in each state.
- Identify and contact community health centers, state organizations, state medical societies, and regional health-related groups for training and funding opportunities.
- Advertise grant opportunities to a wide range of groups.
- Identify state public health department contacts, gather information (collect annual reports) and offer training.
- Investigate opportunities for outreach with Native American populations (Mash./Pequot).
- Identify, contact, and assess information needs of AHEC offices.
- Develop awareness of literacy issues and explore channels of involvement.
- Licensing and CME'S (?).
- Work with State health science library-related groups (i.e., CAHSL, HSLIC etc.), SLA chapters.
- Develop a calendar of educational opportunities.

- Contact State Library Associations, and other public library groups (regional library systems) for training and partnerships.
- Develop an awareness of health care environments for each state.
- Organize poster sessions on the progress of those endeavors.
- Create a checklist of issues to be included when writing proposals.
- Provide outreach to area groups and serve primary clients (subcontracts).
- Develop awareness of needs in disadvantaged communities (staff turnover, lack of funding).
- Internet access in underserved areas.

2001-2002 Activities:

The committee met at the 2001 NAHSL Annual Meeting to share ideas on outreach issues, current and suggested outreach activities in the region. The committee has relied entirely on email correspondence for communication.

The committee has reviewed two rounds of the competitive outreach projects. Anne Conner's evaluation and reporting form was used to score project proposals. Anne's form helped us to standardize the process and we plan to use it for reviewing future proposals.